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Rhode Island Library Association

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RILA

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# **BULLETIN**

of the

## **RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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**Vol. 24**

**MAY 1952**

**No. 1**

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**GREEN HALL, UNIV. OF RHODE ISLAND**

### **SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**Tuesday, May 20, 1952**

**Quinn Hall Auditorium  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, Rhode Island**

#### **MORNING SESSION**

- 10:15 GREETINGS**  
Dr. Harold Browning, Vice-President, University of Rhode Island
- 10:30 BUSINESS MEETING**
- 11:00 ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
Francis P. Allen, Librarian, University of Rhode Island
- 11:15 HISTORY IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD**  
Dr. William D. Metz, Professor of History, University of Rhode Island
- 12:45 LUNCHEON** — University Cafeteria, Lippitt Hall (Top price \$1.25)

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

- 2:15 TAKING HUMOR SERIOUSLY**  
Louis P. Genereux
- 2:45 THE EXPERIMENT AT CONWAY**  
Harriet Kemp, Supervisor, Western Massachusetts Library Federation

BULLETIN  
of the  
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

R.I.L.A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

MRS. ALICE S. McPECK  
Wm. H. Hall Free Library

MARION F. HOLT  
Providence Public Library

ISABEL S. WALLACE  
Auburn Public Library

Vol. 24

MAY, 1952

Np. 1

**University of Rhode Island Library**

Green Hall, the library and administration building, was made possible through a P.W.A. grant from the federal government of more than \$65,000 and a state loan of over \$168,000. Ground was broken on October 14, 1935 and the building was ready for occupancy in July, 1937. It is named Green Hall in honor of Hon. Theodore Francis Green, U. S. Senator from Rhode Island, who was Governor of the State at the time. He was instrumental in obtaining federal funds for the large state building program of which the college buildings are a part. To Mr. F. Ellis Jackson, architect of the firm of Jackson, Robertson and Adams of Providence goes the major portion of credit for the beauty of the architecture and design. The murals in the main reading room were done by Albert Gold, a graduate of the R. I. School of Design.

Mr. Francis P. Allen, Librarian, reports that the Library has expanded into the attic of Green Hall, which gave them room for about 30,000 additional volumes. They also have a new chemistry library housed in the Pastore Chemical Laboratory. All material formerly in the stacks in the classification of 540-548 has now moved to this new Chemistry Library. The Library has a seating capacity of 24, and is complete with new Remington Rand equipment. The Visual-Aids Department has also expanded and is now on the first floor of Green Hall where the Microfilm and Microcard reading machines are kept. Mrs. Anastasia Hoffman, a graduate of

the University of Wisconsin Library School, is a new staff member. She replaces Miss Elizabeth Bartlett who resigned to accept a position in the Library of Phillips Exeter Academy.

**FROM THE FOUR CORNERS  
OF THE STATE**

**Auburn Public Library**

In February, 1951, the Auburn Public Library opened its new Children's Library. Three rooms on the second floor of the library were equipped with library furnishings and an ideal, sunny room was the result. During the first year of its use the circulation of children's books jumped 5000. The shelf space left vacant by the removal of the juvenile books was utilized to relieve the crowded adult fiction section.

**Barrington Public Library**

It is an old story that libraries keep books, but when a library keeps bees, that's news. So we discovered at the Barrington Public Library last May when we installed in our Periodical Room an observation bee-hive with a little glass tunnel leading out-doors in order that the bees could come and go. Everyone was fascinated by the natural history drama unfolding in plain view. We were able to watch the bees bring in honey and pollen, to see the queen laying eggs, to see the young bees hatch and to laugh at the house-keepers cleaning the cells. Our old queen swarmed with about half the bees, a new queen took over and so it went. We tried to anticipate questions but the youngsters were always coming up with something we couldn't answer. Then we would go with them to the books and magazines on bee-keeping, assembled on a near-by shelf, and find the answers together. Many visitors from surrounding towns came to see the bees and a troop of Girl Scouts from Warren paid a call in connection with their Nature work. We even had a delegation of Japanese from the Ryukyu Islands who were in this country studying town government. It is safe



to wager that, as a community, Barrington knows more about bees than almost any other in the state. For once the tables were turned and Barrington children told their parents about the bees and the flowers.

Another venture which has proved interesting is the series of Monthly Art Shows which was launched last June. Each month we have had a different show. The following artists have exhibited; The Barrington Sketch Group, Exene Meyersahm, the late George Gale, all from Barrington; Nancy Jones Love and her husband George Paterson Love from West Barrington; Gertrude Cady from Warren; Edna Lawrence, Mary and Edith Huntsman from Riverside; Florence Leif (Mrs. Gordon Peers), Gordon Peers, Mrs. Mary Peckham and Dorothy Shurtleff, all of Providence. A number of interesting exhibits are scheduled for the coming months. While we do not hold the exhibits directly responsible for the rise in circulation of Fine Arts books, nevertheless the increase has been gratifying.

During Book Week we had a fine display of dolls of foreign countries in the Children's Room. Part of the Christmas Story Hour was a group of puppet plays staged by the Cub Scouts. Another favorite display was a set of dolls—Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs—loaned by one of the girls.

Mrs. Maude E. C. Covell, our cataloger for ten years, retired in the fall, and so far we have no one to replace her. The position of General Assistant, found necessary because of our increased circulation, was accepted by Mrs. Barbara Simonson of Barrington in December.

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### **Elmwood Public Library**

Elmwood, like most other libraries, has survived the onslaught of television and its circulation seems now to have embarked on an upward swing. There are two staff changes to report. During the year Frances Potter resigned as

Children's Librarian after a serious illness, and in October Helen L. Alderman was added to the staff as an assistant. Still speaking of staff, we are proud to report an honor that has come to one of our part-timers, Carol Rider, a sophomore at the School of Design. This year Carol was the recipient of the \$500 Scholarship offered by the Board of Trade of the Providence Chamber of Commerce.

Our Great Books Group is still thriving and its membership increasing. At present it is under the leadership of Hans Wormser, an engineer at the Universal Winding Company. Our auditorium has been used frequently. A Red Cross First Aid Course given to representatives from local industries met there once a week through April, May and June of 1951. An Americanization Class meets there each Monday morning. Two lectures illustrated with slides have been given; one on Japan by Dr. Meyer Saklad; the other on the Woonasquetucket River by Mr. Roland Clement. In the fall the library sponsored a series of films with the World Affairs Council.

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### **Greenville Public Library**

Miss Cora L. Burlingame, who had resigned as librarian at the end of November 1951 because of ill health, died March 20 after a short illness. In her forty-six years of service she missed scarcely a library day. Besides her library duties, Miss Burlingame was very active in community affairs. Mrs. Harriet Scott was appointed as librarian February 1, 1952.

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### **William H. Hall Free Library**

"Can you please send us a deposit of books?" has been the demand at the William H. Hall Free Library this year. As grows the number of new homes beyond the city limits so grows the number of library borrowers and the number of books needed to fill their demands. The local schools have had their usual quota and several schools which are distant to library facilities have asked for deposits every six weeks

and the library has delivered these to them. Other groups, namely the King's Daughters Home at Pawtuxet and the Osteopathic Hospital in Edgewood are enjoying collections from this library. The newest community service is a small branch at the Pawtuxet Fire Station on Sheldon Street which is open every Saturday from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Here may be found books, magazines, pictures, puzzles, phonograph records and last but not least—the Tello-Test answer. Mrs. Hettie P. Selby is in charge.

The library's record circulating policy has been changed so that records may be borrowed for one week free of charge with a one week renewal privilege. The library had as guest speaker at the annual Book Week tea Mr. Maurice Dolbier, Editor of the Providence Journal Book Page. He spoke about his story "Torten's Christmas Secret". Original plates for the book were on display as well as other illustrations by Robert Henneberger who lives in Barrington, R. I. The Friends of the Library have offered four programs this year. During World Affairs Week they sponsored a lecture by Mr. Christian Arndt who spoke on "Problems of the Near East". An exhibit of oil paintings done by C. Gordon Harris, a well-known Providence artist, has created a great deal of interest.

On the evening of January 16, 1952 the library celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the building. A musical and anniversary program was presented under the auspices of the Trustees with the cooperation of the Friends of the Library. Dr. Grace M. Sherwood brought greetings from the State of Rhode Island and a student representative from each local school gave a brief speech expressing "What the Library Means To Me." The main address of the evening was given by the Hon. Patrick P. Curran, one of the original trustees. Music was furnished by the Songs and Strings Trio. Money for an outside bulletin board was presented by the Trustees and the Friends of the Library. A social hour was held in the Music Room.

## Harmony Library

Did you know that in 1929 the William Hall Library donated four hundred books (which arrived in barrels) to the Harmony Fire Department and Improvement Association which sponsored and started a library? The fire chief and his men built book shelves, etc., and now in the new fire station a room in the rear houses the library and the Fire Department provides heat, light and rent. The library began receiving State Aid in 1940 and the total number of books is now 3814. In January 1952 the library started opening one evening a week.

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## Knightsville Community Library

The Knightsville Community Library is celebrating its 25th anniversary. There are now fifty members in the Association and the officers elected for 1952 are as follows; President, Mr. Jonathan Comstock; Vice-president, Mrs. D. Iannone; Secretary, Mrs. Albert Addressi; Treasurer, Mr. Angelo Saccoccia. Mrs. Catherine Bennett is the newly appointed librarian. Two Penny Socials were held in the past year.

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## Narragansett Library Association

Miss Enid P. Thompson has been the librarian at the Narragansett Library Association since last October, and has had Mrs. Kenneth Nye as her assistant. Since Miss Thompson has been in charge she has modernized the library (from a purely Victorian model) and discarded the dead wood (books). The State Library has helped to replace many worn out juvenile books. The cooperation of Mr. Conlon, superintendent of South Kingstown schools, has accelerated the reorganization of the collection. High school seniors were loaned three mornings a week to help work on the books. Mrs. Nye has done a wonderful job of sorting various materials and is instituting a working pamphlet collection.



## Providence Public Library

Although work on the Central Library Addition has been at a standstill since last December because of lack of structural steel, it is encouraging to report the progress made up to that time. In the present building a new driveway, garage, loading platform, shipping and supply rooms, public toilets, staff locker room, new electrical wiring and connections for "inter-com." telephone lines are now completed.

In the new area, concrete footings and foundations are finished, smokestack erected, boilers and fuel tank installed and ducts for heating system are in place. Altogether, about 20 per cent of the completed project is ready. Steel has been promised for delivery by May 29th and work should be resumed immediately. It is expected that the new building will be finished a year from the time that the work is resumed.

At the June Staff Meeting, the Staff Association presented a testimonial scroll to Henry S. Chafee, President of the Board of Trustees, in appreciation of his thirty-one years as Trustee and his ten years as President of the Board of Trustees.

On December 19th, the Library began a weekly BOOK NEWSCAST over Station WPIB which is on the air every Wednesday at 10:15 p.m. News of what's going on in the field of books and book publishing, and anecdotes about authors, publishers, libraries and readers make this program different from THE READER'S GUIDE book discussion over WEAN, Fridays at 7:15 p.m. This June, THE READER'S GUIDE will have completed its 15th year under this name over WEAN. The Library has broadcast continuously from this station under different titles since 1924.

It is a pleasure to record that circulation is increasing at Central and the Branches, a trend which began in October and has continued into 1952. The upswing occurred in both adult and juvenile reading. In the circulation of pocket editions, mostly light fiction,

fell off about 50 per cent, but, despite the drop in this type of reading, an increase in both fiction and non-fiction was recorded.

New members of the Library Staff are Charles W. Adams, First Assistant in the Catalog Department; Mrs. Kirby F. Carr, Branch Librarian at Wanskuck; Charles W. Crosby, Assistant in the Art Department; Martha D. Nolan and Arthur E. Pethybridge, Assistants in the Information and Reference Department.

Persons interested in applying for admission to the Library's 1952-53 Training Class should see the Assistant Librarian before June first. This course is conducted annually to fill positions on the Staff of the Providence Public Library. Included in 1951-52 Training Class are Barbara E. Files, Marion D. Hall, Beverly A. Rounds, Vera Silvestri and Mary L. Sullivan.

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## Isaac Ray Medical Library

On March 5, 1952, the Isaac Ray Medical Library was opened at Butler Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. Around a valuable nucleus of books on medical psychology from the libraries of Isaac Ray, M.D., G. Alder Blumer, M.D. and other former superintendents, it is hoped that an unusually good working collection will eventually be assembled—totaling up to 10,000 volumes. So that the library will be equipped to meet more than local needs, it is planned to compile a union catalog of holdings of other psychiatric libraries in this country, making the library a valuable research instrument for psychiatrists elsewhere.

The project was conceived by Dr. Gregory Zillboorg, consultant in Research and Psychotherapy at Butler Hospital and received generous support from the Aquinas Fund. Its new and attractive quarters were designed and built entirely by hospital personnel.

At the dedication, Dr. Leo Barte-meier and Dr. Gregory Zillboorg were the principal speakers.



### **Redwood Library and Athenæum**

Since the last Spring Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association, the following have been the highlights of the activities of this library: 1. A further substantial increase in the number of shareholders. 2. Expansion of the phonograph record collection, now a vital part of the library. 3. The acquisition of over four thousand fine books, including many first editions, from the library of Mr. Roderick Terry, Junior. 4. The establishment of a program of replacing the missing volumes from the Library's original collection of thirteen hundred pre-Revolutionary titles. 5. The inauguration of a much needed inventory of the entire library.

The library wants to recreate its original book collection and shelve it in the original building in the order in which it was originally arrayed. If it succeeds it will have something unique among American book collections and also a "library" of great value to students of the Colonial scene. As J. Alden Manley, the librarian, points out, "A restored collection would make Redwood the shrine of American libraries that it alone is capable of becoming. The facts were realized (100 years ago) that probably no collection on the continent in 1750 surpassed for quality the one recorded in our catalogue, and that no other library in the United States could both duplicate its original collection of books and place them in the same sequence on the shelves of its original building."

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### **Rhode Island College of Pharmacy**

The library at the Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences have added many new technical, scientific and medical volumes during the past year. They have also purchased many new pharmaceutical and chemical journals. The library has been used to a much greater extent this year because of the increased library assignments and reference work now being assigned to the students by the faculty.

### **Rhode Island School of Design Library**

This has been an active year for the Rhode Island School of Design Library. Circulation statistics have remained at a high level in spite of a decrease in students. There has been a marked decrease in the use of the reserve book system, however, which is attributed to a tendency to encourage students to do more research work on their own. Since the Rhode Island School of Design is a professional institution it is most important that the student be not only familiar with all possible source material but that he be able to know where to find it.

An experiment is underway to develop the extra-curricular reading interests of students. As a beginning, twenty-odd volumes in a reprint series have been purchased and placed on display. It is too early to report any significant results at this time, but all indications are that the experiment will prove most worthwhile.

Gifts during this period included a folio edition of Hans Burgkmair's "Images de Saints et Saintes de la Famille de Empereur Maximilien I", a gift of Mr. Wallace G. Maxon; a collection of books and codes of welding design and science, a gift of the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation; and the establishment of a book fund in memory of the late Donald W. Hurd, former Head, Mathematics and Physics Department, by members of the Architectural Club, the Textile Club, and the Society of Machine Design. The continued generosity of Mrs. Jesse H. Metcalf has enabled us to acquire several outstanding art publications.

The Library was host to the Special Libraries Association, Boston Chapter, on Monday evening, April 28, 1952. Mr. Bradford F. Swan, editor, ENTERTAINMENTS AND THE ARTS, Providence Journal Company, was the speaker.

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### **Rhode Island State Library**

There is every indication that the appropriation of \$20,000. for state Aid



to free public libraries will remain as a part of the Appropriation Act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953. The bill has already passed the House of Representatives and the questions raised by the Senate Finance Committee have been covered in special report by the State Librarian acceptable to the Committee. Please send in your book request orders with regularity throughout the forthcoming fiscal year.

Your duplicates will be greatly appreciated by other younger libraries in this State and for the Armed Forces, their dependents and children in Trust Territories. The General Assembly in January, swiftly, and without reference to the Finance Committee in either legislative branch, approved continuation of the annual appropriation of \$5,000 for the State Library's Book Pool for the Armed Forces. Several cities and towns in Rhode Island have already added their financial gifts. Others have indicated that the approval of the financial town meeting will support the recommendation of the respective Budget Committee. The Book Pool is ten years old.

The collections of the Library Extension Service have been entirely revised and many replacements freshen the loans. Please do not hesitate to call upon this service for any special titles. We shall be happy to send them to you upon inter-library loan.

The shelves of books in English for a bombed library in Karlsruhe, Germany, sent to interpret American ideas and ideals to German youth, are filling steadily. Only the most selective volumes for contents and format are being given. Perhaps you have one or more duplicates to spare?

Miss Grace M. Sherwood, R. I. State Librarian, was awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, at the Brown Commencement, June 1951, for her outstanding efforts for the State and her service in establishing book pools for the armed forces.

#### **U. S. Naval Air Station Library At Quonset**

The Naval Air Station at Quonset provided Navy personnel on the base

with reading material for information and recreation, and gave bedside book service to patients at the Station Infirmary. Increases in circulation and registration figures during the past year indicated a growing use of the library by officers and enlisted men.

#### **Weaver Memorial Library**

In November, 1951, Miss Harriet M. Briggs retired as librarian of the Weaver Memorial Library after having served her community for 48 years. Miss Caroline A. Bowen has been appointed librarian. November the 19th the Watchemoket Library Association held a reception in honor of Miss Briggs. Several hundred friends attended. This past February Miss Briggs enjoyed an extended tour of Mexico, a trip made possible by a substantial gift from the Association, the Board of Trustees and a host of friends. Miss Briggs first served the library as an assistant to her mother, Jennie E. Briggs and succeeded her upon the death of her mother in 1918.

Brief letters have been received from the following libraries:

The Anthony Lyceum Library and the Greene Public Library have had successful food sales. Mr. Clifton W. Steere was appointed Librarian at Greene on July 21st. The Sherman-Leclerc Library in Manville has purchased a new set of the **WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA**. Middletown Free Library which is over 100 years old will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its present building. With the help of the R. I. Foundation they are reshingling and having new plumbing installed. Davisville Free Library is to have a new coat of paint this summer and has already installed a new sign over the door. The Tyler Free Library on the Moosup Road is Foster is open Saturday afternoons. Their circulation for the past year was 2,904 volumes. The Union Public Library of Tiverton has purchased a set of the **ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA** with funds raised locally. They have also packed many boxes of books for Wal-lum Lake.



### **Convention Time**

All library roads lead to New York City June 29-July 5, 1952 for the 76th conference of the American Library Association with convention headquarters at the Waldorf Astoria.

Miss Lucille Chandonnet, secretary of the New England Library Association, writes that the next N.E.L.A. conference will be held in Swampscott at the New Ocean House on September 30, October 1 and 2, 1953.

### **A Treat for You**

Of interest to all Rhode Islanders is the very fine talk "With Full Liberty in Religious Concernments" given by Professor Zachariah Chaffee at the Rhode Island session of the N.E.L.A. at Swampscott last October 12, 1951.

His speech in full is printed in the March 1, 1952 issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

### **A.L.A. Membership**

If your membership in A.L.A. has slipped your mind or has been put off until tomorrow, get in touch with your membership chairman for R. I. (Marion F. Holt, Washington Park Branch of the Providence Public Library) or send your dues immediately to A.L.A. Headquarters.

You are invited to join the Children's Library Ass., a section of the American Library Ass. The Association invites to its membership anyone interested in work with children. Membership blanks may be obtained from Ida May Anderson, Chairman for R. I., Providence Public Library.

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## **RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

### **Officers, 1951 - 1952**

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#### **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**

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MISS IDA MAY ANDERSON, Providence Public Library

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HANDBOOK—Miss Harriet M. Briggs

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